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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/765,498	01/18/2001	Kevin P. Cowan	VI/00-012	6536

21140 7590 09/11/2003

GREGORY L BRADLEY
MEDRAD INC
ONE MEDRAD DRIVE
INDIANOLA, PA 15051

EXAMINER

DESANTO, MATTHEW F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3763

DATE MAILED: 09/11/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/765,498

Applicant(s)

COWAN ET AL.

Examiner

Matthew F DeSanto

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 June 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4,5,11,14-31 and 34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13, 32, 33, 35-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Aasmul et al. (USPN 6,533,183).

Aasmul et al. discloses a length of material that can be used on syringes that consists of indicators that represent a code when a light beam (electromagnetic energy) is transmitted and reflected from the length of material (notches and grooves) therefore, providing information about the syringe. (Figures 1,2,3,4,5 and Paragraph [0002], [0003], [0011], [0041], and entire reference).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13, 32, 33, 35-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hitchins et al. (USPN 5,944,694) and further in view of Aasmul et al. as applied to claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13, 32, 33, 35 - 37 above.

Hitchins et al. disclosed syringe for use with powered injector to inject fluid into a patient comprising a syringe with a plurality of indicators along a length of material of the syringe wall, wherein the syringe comprises a body, a plunger, a mounting flange, a drip flange, but fails to fully disclose the workings of how the indicator and the encoder reflect and refract the light beams to form the code that provides information about the syringe.

Aasmul et al. discloses a length of material that refracts and reflects light to provide information about the syringe. (Claims 1-19 and entire reference)

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Hitchins et al. with Aasmul et al., because Aasmul et al. teaches that adding a length of material comprising notches and grooves and

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wherein the length of material allows light to be reflected and refracted; provides for a more stable and accurate way of coding information regarding the syringe, such as orientation and content. It is also well known in the art to add indicators to a syringe barrel. (See USPN 5,954,700)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Hitchins et al. with Aasmul et al. to obtain the specified invention in claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13, 32, 33, 35-49.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 6/17/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

7. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e. propagate [special definition], and how the length of material works [how the indicators work through reflection and refraction]) are not recited in the rejected claims. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

8. The applicant argues that Aasmul et al. does not disclose a length of material that "propagated" light. The examiner interprets "propagated" as broadly as possible and thus is interpreting "propagated" as to transmit information and thus Aasmul et al. teaches a length of material (the bars) transmit information and thus read on the applicant's claims. If the applicant wishes to use a special definition for propagate, then the examiner would suggest that the applicant defines this definition in the claims.

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Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew F DeSanto whose telephone number is 1-703-305-3292. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on 1-703-308-3552. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 1-703-872-9302 for regular communications and 1-703-872-9303 for After Final communications.


Matthew DeSanto
Art Unit 3763
September 5, 2003


MICHAEL J. HAYES
PRIMARY EXAMINER